

# TAIT TIGER NEWS

Newsletter # 4

December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

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Student Absences: 604-668-6444

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## From the Office

### Communicating Student Learning (Reporting)

On Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, term one reports will come home for students in Divisions 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10.



The reports will be a snapshot of the progress a child has made in their learning this term. No one piece of paper can ever capture who a child is, but their portfolios, workbooks, projects, and journals speak volumes as to who they are as a student. It is this work that is the true communication of a child's learning, along with conversations with their teacher.

With the Ministry making a shift by refreshing our curriculum, there is also a shift in reporting. The Ministry of Education makes the following recommendations in order for us to move forward successfully with the new curriculum:

- *Shift from "reporting" to "communicating student learning"*
- *Support meaningful communication between teachers, parents, and learners*
- *Report on core competencies and key areas of learning*
- *Focus on learning competencies (skills) not on the content (topics)*
- *Enable ongoing communication (with provincial guidelines and supports)*
- *Use clear performance and proficiency-based language when communicating student learning and progress*

*The essence of these recommendations is: there is a shift in how schools communicate student learning towards meaningful descriptions / collections / and demonstrations of student learning.*

Some information about report cards to help you talk with your child:

1. Teachers assess a child's progress based on the widely-held expectations for children of that age.
2. It is important to remember that children are all learning and progressing at their own rate. Some children may learn more quickly or easily than others. Some children take a longer time to learn. Teachers need to report on a child's current development. Both parents and teachers need to celebrate each child's progress and growth in learning.
3. When you and your child look at their student report, it is important to celebrate growth and improvement and to talk about areas for improvement in Term 2.



**Please remember, Divisions 1, 2, 4, 7, and 8 will not receive report cards in December as these classes are part of the Student Reporting Policy Pilot in connection to the Ministry of Education. You can view their progress on a continual basis by looking at their e-Portfolio. Students in these divisions will receive a Mid-Year Summary of their progress in early February 2019.**

### DRESS FOR THE WEATHER:

It is important that students are dressed for the weather. During these colder damp days, students need to have a proper jacket, footwear, a hat and perhaps gloves. If they dress appropriately for the weather, they can enjoy playing outside. We will continue as a school to go outside on days that include rain and snow





## **SNOW DAYS - WHAT TO EXPECT:**

Snow days cause an inconvenience for all of us. Closing schools is a difficult decision for the school district – trying to weigh the safety of all with the repercussions for working families. To help assist families, we would like to outline what you can expect from us on a snow day. The following things will happen:

Schools will be OPEN unless conditions reach civic emergency proportions. **Radio announcements will only announce those schools that are CLOSED.** Most of these will be private schools. Listen to radio: CKNW 980AM; NEWS 1130AM; CBC 690AM; QM 103.5FM or watch on television: CBC; Global; CTV.

As well, you can get information other ways:

- the Richmond School District website
- all elementary school websites will have a scrolling message along the top as necessary (i.e. on days which are questionable due to weather). The message will include a link back to the district's website containing detailed information.
- the snow closure hotline, (604) 295-4304, which will provide a recorded message indicating if schools are open or closed
- Twitter at RichmondSD38

**Please do not phone the school. The administration will be too busy planning the day and will not be able to answer the phone.**

- ❖ It may not be a regular school day as many students and teachers may be absent. If children do come to school, we will ensure that the children are cared for and are safe. Many alternate activities may be planned so that students who are absent will not miss any work.
- ❖ School will remain open until 2:45pm. In the event that we have to close early, students will not be sent home without contacting parents first.

### **You have some choices:**

1. Students are not required to attend school on a snow day if you feel their safety or your own safety may be at risk (you may keep them home)
2. Make plans in advance for what you and your family will do on a snow day
3. Children who come to school may be taking part in alternate activities

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the school before a snow day.



## **Flu and Cold Season**

It is that time again – flu and cold season is here and we are reminding students to wash their hands regularly. Using soap and hot water is a great way to clean hands. The school is discouraging the use of hand sanitizers because they are hard on your skin and they kill all bacteria – even the GOOD bacteria we naturally have on our hands that help keep us healthy. PLEASE do not send sanitizers to school: just remind your children to wash their hands with soap and warm water on a regular basis throughout the school day.

If your child has been ill, please do not send them to school. Children will not get better at school and they will make other students and staff ill.

**Please note: Students should not come back to school after being ill until they have gone at least 24 hours without a fever or vomiting.**

## **Registration for New Kindergarten Students**

The Richmond School District is excited to welcome kindergarten registration applications for children born in 2015, turning 5 in 2020. These children will begin kindergarten in September, 2020. Registration begins November 1, 2019. **All registrations will be done at the Richmond School Board Office.**



The Priority 1 Kindergarten Registration deadline for the year 2020–21 is on January 24<sup>th</sup>. If you or anyone you know has a child that was born in the year 2015, please see the SD38 Website, Registration section for registration dates, the registration process and FAQs.

Families are encouraged to register any time during the Priority 1 registration period for the best chance at attending their catchment school. All registration applications received any time during the Priority 1 registration period will receive placement decisions by February 7, 2020.



### **Parking Lot Before School**

As you know, our parking lot can be a busy place before and after school. We ask that parents use the drop off lane to let students out of their car in the morning. Students should get out of their car using the doors on the passenger side (right side) of their car, so they don't step out into traffic moving by on the left side of your car. We also ask parents not to park in the 'drop off only' lane and go into the school with their child. When cars are parked in the 'drop off only' lane, the parking lot becomes congested very quickly and an unsafe situation is created for students and parents walking to school. Please stop in the drop off lane, let your child out of your car, then drive out of the parking lot so the traffic keeps moving in a safe manner.

Parents, please do not park in the Tait School Parking Lot before 8:30am. Parking spaces in our parking lot are limited and we need to make sure the Tait Staff have a parking space, so they are ready to work with your child at 8:45am.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.

### **Student Absences**

If your child will be absent from school, please call the school directly at 604-668-6444 to speak to our office staff or leave a message. Please do not rely on an email to your child's classroom teacher telling them about your child's absence. Classroom teachers may not have had the chance to access their email before school, and may mark your child as absent with an unknown reason as to why they are missing from school. If classroom teachers enter a child as absent without a reason, our office staff will make a phone call home to parents to find out the whereabouts of a child. This procedure can be aggravating for parents, and takes valuable time from our office staff that could be better used.



Thank-you for your understanding. Please call 604-668-6444 if your child will be absent from school.

# Around the School

## DARE for Grade 5 Students



DARE stands for Define Assess Respond and Evaluate. Each year all students in Grade 5 in Richmond Public Schools work with a trained RCMP officer to learn the DARE framework. This term, Constable Kandola of the Richmond RCMP worked with our grade 5 students every Thursday morning. Our students learned a tremendous amount from Constable Kandola about how to make good choices and how to be assertive in difficult situations. Our Grade 5 DARE students will have their celebration of learning this Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. All parents of grade 5 students are invited to join us in this celebration, starting at 9:00am.

## GRADE 6/7 COED VOLLEYBALL



Our Grade 6/7 Volleyball team has had an excellent season with their coaches, Ms. Kenakin and Ms. Jakovak. The team played several games against Talmey, Tomsett and McNeely elementary, and were part of the Richmond Community Centre's Tournament at McNeill Secondary. In the last week before the Winter Break the Grade 6/7 Volleyball Team will play a fun game against the Tait Teachers. It should be a thrilling game. Come out to the Tiger-Dome (AKA Tait Gym) to watch the action.

## Hip Hop Evening / Winter Celebration

Join us on Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Cambie Secondary School to see all of our classes perform their Hip-Hop Dance. All classes will be practicing through the week of December 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> at Tait Elementary to learn a brand-new Hip-Hop Dance. They will celebrate their achievements by performing for family and friends on the evening of December 13<sup>th</sup>. We hope that your child will be available to come to share their dance on December 13<sup>th</sup> and that you will be in the crowd to cheer them on. Thank-you to our wonderful Tait PAC for providing funds to have professional Hip Hop Instructors from VIBE Dance come to Tait Elementary to work with our students and staff for the entire week. Each class will receive daily Hip Hop instruction.



## Tait Scholastic Book Fair

Our Scholastic Book Fair ran all last week and was well attended by students, parents and teachers. Tait Elementary receives a portion of the proceeds raised in the sale of books. These proceeds are used to buy books for our library for all students to enjoy. We raised \$1400 for the purchase of books for our library!



Thank-you to all of our staff volunteers. We want to give an extra special thank-you to Ms. Becker who organized our entire book fair and to Keiko Siddle, one of our PAC Parents, who volunteered her time each day during the book fair.



## Tait Holiday Food Drive

The Holiday Food Drive will take place at Tait from Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. We are asking for your help to support Richmond families that are less fortunate. If you are able to help, please consult the list below to see what your child's classroom is providing. Of course, if you wish to provide other items, we would appreciate them too. Send your donations with your child to their classroom between December 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Our Me to We Team will be collecting the items and passing them on to the Richmond Food Bank. Thank-you for your consideration.

Division 1: Toilet Paper/Paper Towels

Division 2: Granola Bars/Crackers

Division 3: Cans (Veggies/Fruits)

Division 4: Dried Goods (Beans/Pasta)

Division 5: Toilet Paper/Kleenex/Paper Towels

Division 6: Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/Soap/Dish soap/Cleaning Supplies

Division 7: Condiments/Spices

Division 8: Soup

Division 9: Cereal

Division 10: Pasta

## DATES TO REMEMBER

### Dates to Remember

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|--|--|
| • Thursday Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>                | DARE Celebration for Grade 5 students                    |
| • Friday Dec. 6 <sup>th</sup>                  | Michael Bortolotto Speaks at Tait                        |
| • Mon. to Fri. Dec. 9-13                       | Hip Hop Week at Tait                                     |
| • Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup> – Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup> | Tait Holiday Food Drive                                  |
| • Friday Dec. 13                               | Hip Hop Holiday Evening 5:30-7:30pm at Cambie Secondary  |
| • Wednesday Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>              | Band Concert Divisions 1, 2 and 3 @ 10:30am              |
| • Wednesday Dec. 18 <sup>th</sup>              | Students Reports for Divisions 3, 5, 6, 9 and 10 go home |
| • Thursday Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>               | Burrrr Day: Eco-Wise Wear a Sweater to School Day        |
| • Friday Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>                 | Last Day of School before Winter Break                   |
| • December 23 – January 3                      | Winter Break (school is closed)                          |
| • Monday Jan. 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2020           | School Re-opens for Term 2                               |
| • Tuesday Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup>                | Kindergarten Hearing and Vision Testing - 9am            |
| • Thursday Jan. 23 <sup>rd</sup>               | PAC Meeting – 9am  |
| • Monday Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>                 | ProD Day – No School for Students                        |

